

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

3242

August 5, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR ROLAND L. ELLIOTT

FROM: Jeanne W. Davis

SUBJECT: Reply to Metropolitan Skrypnyk of the Ukrainian  
Orthodox Church of the U. S. A.

On July 24 Metropolitan Skrypnyk again wrote to the President asking him to intercede with the Soviet leaders on behalf of three Ukrainian intellectuals. (Metropolitan Skrypnyk wrote to the President on June 13 on this matter, and you replied on July 17.)

At Tab I please find a proposed reply for your signature to Metropolitan Skrypnyk. (The incoming correspondence is also returned herewith.)

PROPOSED REPLY

Dear Metropolitan Skrypnyk:

This is to acknowledge your July 24, 1974 letter to the President concerning the serious plight of Valentin Moroz, Leonid Moroz, and Vyacheslav Chornovil.

Further to my letter of July 17, you may be certain that the Administration is continuing to seek opportunities to make our views on the matter of fundamental human rights known to the Soviet Union.

Thank you again for taking time to write the President.

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott

The Most Reverend Mystyslav S. Skrypnyk  
Archbishop of Philadelphia and Metropolitan  
of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.  
Post Office Box 495  
South Bound Brook, New Jersey 08880

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: The Secretary of State

Date: August 1, 1974

## ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:
- ☐ President's signature.
- ☒ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☐ Direct reply.
- ☐ Furnish information copy.
- ☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- ☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

## NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately. Code 1450. Miss Byrne 456-6689.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

## REMARKS:

Enclosed also is <sup>copy of</sup> Roland Elliott's reply of July 17, 1974 to writer.

## Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: ☐ Other:

To: The President

From: The Most Reverend Mystyslav S. Skrypnyk, Archbishop of Philadelphia

Date: July 24, 1974 and Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of U.S.A., P.O. Box 495, South Bound Brook, N.J.

Subject: Appeal to President for assistance in case of imprisoned Ukrainian, V. Moroz.

By direction of the President:

RLE:JHH:pb

*R*

Roland L. Elliott  
Special Assistant  
to the President

July 17, 1974

Dear Metropolitan Skrypnyk:

Though this reply is delayed, the President did want me to acknowledge your letter of June 13 regarding the plight of Valentine Moroz, Leonide Plusch and Vyacheslav Chornovil. He appreciated having the benefit of your views on this matter prior to his visit to the Soviet Union.

I can assure you that this Administration fully supports the desire of all people to secure basic human rights and dignity. As in the past, we will continue to seek opportunities to make our views on this matter known to the Soviet Union. It is our hope that this effort, combined with our policy of normalizing relations with the Soviet Union, may have a beneficial impact on the future of individuals such as Valentine Moroz, Leonide Plusch, and Vyacheslav Chornovil.

The President is grateful for your prayers and expressions of goodwill, and he has asked me to extend to you and to those who joined in the letter his very best wishes.

Sincerely,

Roland L. Elliott  
Special Assistant  
to the President

The Most Reverend Mystyslav S. Skrypnyk  
Archbishop of Philadelphia and Metropolitan  
of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A.  
Post Office Box 495  
South Bound Brook, New Jersey 08880

RLE:STATE:JH:RLE:mg



## Ukrainian Orthodox Church of U. S. A.

**MOST REVEREND MYSTYSLAV S. SKRYPNYK**

Archbishop of Philadelphia and Metropolitan  
of The Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
of the U. S. A.

P.O. Box 495  
South Bound Brook, N. J. 08880  
Tel.: 201 — 356-0090

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

July 24, 1974

Dear Mr. President:

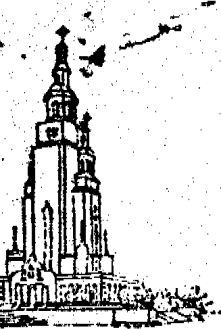
Please accept my sincere thanks for your response to my letter of June 13, which was forwarded to me on June 17, by your Special Assistant Mr. Rolland L. Elliott, confirming your knowledge of the serious plight of Valentine Moroz, Leonid Plushch and Vyacheslav Chornovil.

Unfortunately, situations have arisen which compell me to disturb you again relative to the condition of the seriously ill Professor Valentine Moroz, who continues to suffer oppression in Volodymyr Prison which is noted for its inhumane policy. The extremely critical physical condition of Valentine Moroz was confirmed by the renowned defender of human rights, Academician A. Sacharov who summoned all people of good will to come to the defense of V. Moroz.

Very recently, authoritative sources revealed the appalling news that V. Moroz, seeing the futility of his situation, has again begun a hunger strike which he has decided to prolong until his death in protest against the inhumanities levied upon him and his other fellow Ukrainian compatriots who like him, are incarcerated in Soviet prisons, concentration camps and psychiatric hospitals of a penal character.

This appalling news has deeply wounded all Ukrainians who, by the mercy of God's Providence, live in the free world. As a sign of solidarity with Valentine Moroz, not only university students but also elderly people have begun a voluntary hunger strike. These self-sacrificing protesters are conducting their hunger strikes in front of the Embassies of the USSR in various capitals of the world and especially in lands which have the greatest concentration of Ukrainians namely, the USA and Canada. Many of these protesters are already in hospitals. Only today I have been informed that several individuals have begun a hunger strike in front of the White House.

All of this has created a situation of painful unrest among the faithful of our Church and mandates that I again turn to you with the fervent plea to come to the defense of Valentine Moroz and to do all in your power to secure the quickest possible release of V. Moroz from prison and permission for his exit from the USSR to the USA. All expenses connected with the immigration of V. Moroz and his family to the USA and support for him in this land will be covered by our Church.



## Ukrainian Orthodox Church of U. S. A.

MOST REVEREND MYSTYSLAV S. SKRYPNYK

Archbishop of Philadelphia and Metropolitan  
of The Ukrainian Orthodox Church  
of the U. S. A.

P.O. Box 495  
South Bound Brook, N. J. 08880  
Tel.: 201 — 356-0090

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At this time, I am compelled not to remain silent concerning the very critical physical condition of Professor Leonid Plushch who is presently in the psychiatric prison hospital of Dnipropetrovsk. The latest news from Ukraine confirms that his life is in danger. Therefore, I request that you also remember this martyr for human rights and enslaved nations.

Having full confidence in your sincere sympathy towards people who are unjustly harmed and with assurance of my high regard for you, I remain

Very truly yours

*† Mystyslav*  
(Most Rev.) Mystyslav  
Archbishop of Philadelphia  
Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox  
Church in the diaspora

MM/fe